

SPRING ROOFING MAINTENANCE TIPS

So how's your roof? You don't know? Most of us don't know what's happening with our roofs because we never actually climb a ladder and look at them. But that out-of-sight, out-of-mind approach can turn into a costly roof maintenance strategy. The National Roofing Contractors Association recommends homeowners conduct a simple roof checkup every fall and spring and so do we at Residential Renovations. Doing so now can help prepare your roof for the long, harsh winter that's just around the corner. NRCA recommends you hire a professional roofing contractor like us at Residential Renovations to assist you with checking your roof. However, just like NRCA, Residential Renovations realizes many homeowners prefer to perform an initial inspection themselves. If you prefer to go that route, following are some important tips both NRCA and Residential Renovations suggests to get you started.

Cleaning Your Gutters: Safety First

- Cleaning your gutters and/or inspecting your roof system can be risky. So it's important to remember these important ladder safety tips:
 - Make sure the ladder is on solid, level ground.
 - Secure the ladder at the top to prevent it from slipping.
 - Extend the ladder at least 3 feet beyond the gutter, and angle it 1 foot back from the house for every 4 feet in eave height.
- Removing Leaves and Debris from Your Gutters
 - Once or twice a year, it's a good idea to clean out your gutters and downspouts. If your gutters are clogged, rain won't drain properly. Water can overflow the gutters and cause serious structural damage to your foundation over time.
 - In addition, a gutter full of water is heavy and can damage the fascia boards on your roof. Some hints: Remove leaves, sticks, needles and seeds from gutters, scooping out debris with a garden trowel or gloved hand.
 - Don't try to remove the debris with a hose because that may cause downspouts to clog.
 - Remove the pasty goo made up from the tiny granules from asphalt roofing shingles that have mixed with dirt and water.
 - Flush residual matter using a garden hose.
 - To clean downspouts, turn on the hose full blast and thread into drain opening.
 - Check gutters after flushing for pools that indicate low spots. Gutters should be sloped about 1 vertical inch for every 15 to 20 horizontal feet so they drain properly. Adjust gutters as necessary.

What to Look For On Your Roof

- Most roof damage occurs before anyone at ground level notices it. The following are some signs that your roof (or parts of it) may need replacing.
 - Shingles that are buckling, curling or blistering; this indicates the end of the shingles' life expectancy.
 - Loose material or wear around chimneys, pipes and other penetrations.
 - Excessive amounts of shingle granules in your gutters; granules give shingles added weight and protect them from ultraviolet rays.
 - Be sure to inspect the area around pipes and chimneys.

Inside Your Home

- Check interior walls and ceilings for water damage.

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